

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of cleansing a filter, comprising:

passing water from a water source through a filter, thereby producing filtered water;  
delivering all of the filtered water to an end use device;  
providing a source of purified water, wherein the purified water has a lower total dissolved solids reading than the water being filtered; and  
exposing the filter to the purified water.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the filter includes a filter cartridge.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the purified water includes water treated by a reverse osmosis, a steam distillation or a deionization process.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the purified water has a total dissolved solids reading at least fifty percent less than water being filtered.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the purified water has a total dissolved solids reading at least eighty percent less than water being filtered.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the purified water has a total dissolved solids reading at least ninety five percent less than water being filtered.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising backflushing the filter with the purified water.

Claims 9-35 (canceled).

Claim 36 (currently amended): A method for backflushing a filter, comprising:

- a. flowing water from a water source through a primary flowpath in a filtered flowpath to an end use device, thereby delivering all of the filtered water to the end use device;
- b. providing a source of purified water, wherein the purified water has a lower total dissolved solids reading than the water being filtered;
- c. switching an inlet valve, a drain valve, and a flush valve in the filtered flowpath from the primary flowpath to a secondary flowpath that allows purified water into the filtered flowpath;
- d. flowing the purified water into the secondary flowpath, wherein the secondary flowpath allows the purified water to flow backwards through the filter for a predetermined interval to remove or dissolve filtered media or unclog a filter in the primary flowpath; and
- e. switching the inlet valve, the drain valve, and the flush valve from the secondary flowpath to the primary flowpath to resume the delivery of filtered water to the end use device.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method for backflushing a filter as recited in claim 36, further comprising:

- d. repeating steps c.-e. to provide a continued cleansing of the filter.

Claim 38 (original): The method of claim 36, wherein the purified water includes water treated by a reverse osmosis, a steam distillation or a deionization process.

Claim 39 (canceled).

Claim 40 (original): The method of claim 36, wherein the purified water has a total dissolved solids reading at least fifty percent less than water being filtered.

Claim 41 (original): The method according to claim 36, wherein the purified water has a total dissolved solids reading at least eighty percent less than water being filtered.

Claim 42 (original): The method of claim 36, wherein the purified water has a total dissolved solids reading at least ninety five percent less than water being filtered.

Claim 43 (new): A method for cleansing a filter, comprising:

passing water through a filter, thereby producing filtered water;

delivering the filtered water to a purification device to produce purified water, wherein the purified water is delivered to an end use device; and

diverting a portion of the purified water to the filter, thereby exposing the filter to the purified water.

Claim 44 (new): The method of cleansing a filter according to claim 43, wherein the final step is replaced with:

diverting a portion of the purified water to the filter, and flowing the purified water backwards through the filter, thereby cleansing the filter.

Claim 45 (new): A method for cleansing a filter, comprising:

passing water from a water source through a filter and to an end use device, thereby delivering filtered water to the end use device;

passing water from the water source through a water purification device, thereby creating purified water; and

exposing the filter to the purified water, thereby cleansing the filter.

Claim 46 (new): The method for cleansing a filter according to claim 45, wherein the final step is replaced with:

passing the purified water backwards through the filter, thereby cleansing the filter.